

Owin: A Lost and Ruined Fortress and Defense Watch Tower in Kashmir at the Edge of Punjab, Pakistan

Samina Saleem¹

This research paper is a case study of a lost small fortress or watch Tower that is not documented up till now. Actually this place "Owin" is not even mentioned on the Archaeological map, but the link of the area tells that this area must be an ancient hidden rout to Kashmir. This small building tells us the story of brutality of human beings who had "Sufism" in their routes, but it does not show any love for human beings. While hearing stories of this fortress by the elderly people of the area one can realize how difficult it would have been for the people of the area to build that watch tower in that faraway place. This research also reveals how the people of that area were able to construct it with powerful material, stone that was available in the area. This research will open the window towards the past when these kinds of buildings were erected for mailing purpose or sending messages through light. This paper will also take us to the hardships that the people of this area must have faced while constructing this watch Tower. This small fortress is situated at a far flung area, which is in between the rugged mountains and it is quite difficult to reach there even now after so much development. It will be concluded that it is human instinct to protect themselves from enemies. At the end comparison of the building will be done with other such buildings that were also erected with the same purpose along the rivers.

Statement of the Problem

There are many archaeological sites in Pakistan, which require attention of the authorities. There are many places that are not even documented and mentioned on the Archaeological map. These places need to be disclosed and documented.

Scope and Significance of Dissertation

This research is significant because a lost and forgotten place is being discovered. This research and documentation might help the authorities like Ministry of Culture or Archaeology department of Pakistan to work for the restoration of such buildings like the Owin Fort.

Hypothesis

The present research intends to document such historical buildings that are situated at far flung areas and at areas that are not mentioned in Archaeological Map. The purpose is to bring to light the hidden History of the area with the building.

¹ Pakistan, e-mail: saminaSs@hotmail.com.